

What To Do If You Meet a Coyote

- Coyotes provide an enjoyable wildlife viewing experience. Keep your distance and **do not approach the animals**. Enjoy the opportunity to view wildlife.
- **Keep your pets on a leash** when walking them.
- If a coyote approaches you or your pet, you can **throw rocks or sticks to frighten it away**.
- Use a **loud, authoritative voice to frighten the animal**.

For this and more information, visit

<http://wildlife.state.co.us/>

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Información disponible en Español

Feel free to contact your local Animal Control Officers for any questions or comments.

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Living with Coyotes

A guide to
understanding and
coexisting



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Understanding Coyotes

The coyote is a member of the dog family. Weighing about 25 pounds, the coyote has a bushy tail and is gray and tan in color. This interesting creature is misunderstood and commonly underestimated.

Sightings of coyotes are very common during the spring, which corresponds with their mating season. Coyotes prefer to live in open fields and mountainous surroundings, but have no problems adjusting to city life. As long as food, water, and shelter are available coyotes will adapt to any habitat. Coyotes are extremely adaptable animals. We must learn to coexist with these creatures and do everything possible to keep our community and pets safe.



Photo by: Michael Seraphin, DOW

Knowing the Danger

Coyotes pose a danger to the community, and being aware of that danger is the first step to coexisting with these creatures.

With coyotes being so adaptable to surrounding habitats, it is not uncommon to see coyotes running through the neighborhoods of Brighton. Their principle diet consists of mice, rabbits, squirrels, other small rodents, insects, even reptiles, and fruits and berries of wild plants. However when dog food, bird feed, small dogs, and domestic cats are left outside, the coyote will use that to its advantage and can even use your pets as a food source.

Human attacks are very rare, but not impossible. Most human attacks have been caused by a person attempting to feed a coyote. Proper actions should be taken to avoid such conflicts.

The Colorado Division of Wildlife has done extensive research to come up with solutions to deal with coyotes. It has been proven that actions to attempt to eradicate coyotes have caused the coyote population to expand rather than decline.

Taking Action

- If you live in areas where coyotes have been seen, **protect your pets!** Coyotes will attack and kill cats and dogs. Do not allow your pets to roam, especially at night. Make sure your yard is appropriately fenced. We suggest at least a six-foot fence, or, better yet, keep your dog in a completely enclosed kennel.
- **Do not allow dogs to run with coyotes.** Although it appears they are "playing", coyotes can turn on dogs to defend their territory.
- **Don't leave pet food outside.** This invites wildlife into your yard and problems may result.
- **Protect livestock, especially chickens, young calves, and sheep.** Contact your local extension office for appropriate methods to prevent depredation.
- **Keep your garbage in a storage facility or in a tightly sealed container.** Clean garbage cans regularly to reduce residual odors by using hot water and chlorine bleach.